

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 6, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,936,061 to Sasaki (hereinafter "Sasaki"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 4, 5, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,359,391 to Landymore et al. (hereinafter "Landymore").

Claim 2 has not been rejected, but is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicates that claim 2 would be allowable if the claim was rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

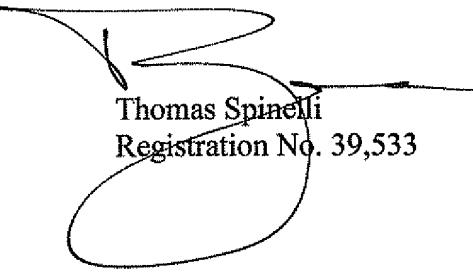
Applicants disagree with the Examiner's basis for rejection of the pending claims in view of either Sasaki or Sasaki in view of Landymore. However, in an effort to expedite allowance of the claims, Applicants have followed the Examiner's indications for allowance of claim 2 by incorporating all of the features of claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 2 has thus been cancelled. Since the remainder of the claims depend from amended claim 1, the foregoing also has the effect of placing the remainder of the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the indicated rejections have been obviated and are now moot. Thus, the pending claims are allowable.

Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more continuing or divisional applications directed to the disclaimed subject matter in this application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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